

February 14, 2011

Dear Property Owner or Property Manager:

Effective as of February 1, 2011 all residential properties are required to install carbon monoxide (CO) alarms on each level of the dwelling unit. The rules are similar (although not exactly) to the requirements for multi-family homes which went into effect last year. The new change is specific to one and two family dwellings regardless of age.

The rule is retroactive and all properties must comply, owner occupied homes and rentals.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you as the property owner or manager of this requirement under the law. It requires that by February 1, 2011 property owners of all residential buildings shall install some type of CO alarms in each living unit if the dwelling unit has a fuel fired appliance or an attached garage.

For existing houses there are no mandatory types of power sources for the alarms so one can use battery powered alarms, plug in alarms or direct wired alarms. All types are readily available for around \$20.00 to \$40.00 each.

Location:

- 1) The law simply states that one CO alarm be installed on each level of the house. We would suggest that on the floor levels with bedrooms, the CO alarm be installed within 15 feet of each sleeping area

If your smoke alarms are 10 years old they should be replaced, so you may want to consider a combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarms as replacements in those locations.

If you have a hard wired smoke alarm system and you replace one or more of your present smoke alarms with combination smoke/ CO alarms be sure it is compatible with your existing system and you test all of the alarms upon installation.

If your building has all electric appliances and no attached garage you are exempt from this requirement.

Rental Property Owners: When you have installed the detectors in your rental buildings, please e-mail verification of compliance with the building address to kgerth@menomonie-wi.gov

City of Menomonie Inspection Department
800 Wilson Ave
Menomonie WI 54751
Phone: 715-232-2241
Fax: 715-235-0888
website: www.menomonie.gov

- *CO alarms can be placed near the ceiling or the floor because CO is very close to the same density as air. Combination carbon monoxide/smoke alarms must be mounted at or close to the ceiling because of the smoke detection function.*